REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-18 are pending, in which claims 17-18 are newly presented. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed January 21, 2004 rejected claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-16 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Heiney et al.* (US 6,401,109) in view of *Li* (US 6,519,594), and claims 6 and 14 over *Heiney et al.* and *Li* further in view of *Miner et al.* (US 6,047,053).

The rejection of claims 1-16 over *Heiney et al.* and *Li* is respectfully traversed because neither *Heiney et al.* nor *Li*, individually or in combination, teach or otherwise suggest the limitations of the claims. For example, independent claims 1 and 9 recite: "establishing a first session between said server and a first user" and "establishing a second session between said server and a second user." These features is not shown in either *Heiney et al.* and *Li*.

Heiney et al. is directed to a technique for creating a virtual socket for JAVA interprocess communication "between two JAVA processes resident on a single system" (Abstract). Referring to FIG. 7, a Network Printer Manager (NPM) client process object **70** and an NPM client process object **71** are connected to a socket **12** in virtual machine **14** on server **11**. Also on server **11** are virtual machines **72** and **72A** for dealing with printers **75** and **78** through respective NPM process objects **74** and **74A**. *Heiney et al.* discloses that the virtual machine **14** sets up, within the server **11**, a "virtual socket session" (col. 8:64) with virtual machines **72** and **72A** via virtual socket **22**. *Heiney et al.* fails to disclose, however, "establishing a first session between said server and a first user" and "establishing a second session between said server and a second user" because the virtual socket session is not between a user and server **11** but merely between virtual machine **14** and virtual machine **72** or **72A** on server **11**. This is also shown in FIG. 11,

cited in the Office Action, where the virtual socket **22** and **22A** are only shown to be between

virtual machine **14** and virtual machine **72** or **72A** on server **11**.

Neither *Li* nor *Miner et al.* disclose these features, and the Office Action did not rely

upon these reference and properly so.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 10-18 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their

independent claims and are individually patentable on their own merits. For example, none of

the references disclose establishing a first or second database session between a database system

and the first or second user as set forth in newly presented claims 17-18.

In addition, the invocation of "Official Notice" with respect to claims 5 and 13 is

respectfully traversed as insufficient or improper. For instance, the Applicant has not been

properly put on notice as to exactly which fact the Official Notice is being invoked. As argued

above, *Heiney et al.* has a session that differs in meaning from the session recited in the claims,

so it is unclear whether the Official Notice pertains to the sessions recited in the claim or to the

different sessions of *Heiney et al.* Under either interpretation, however, the Official Notice

would not save the rejection. If the session of the Official Notice is meant to be the sessions of

Heiney et al., then *Heiney et al.* still fails to disclose the sessions of the claims, including those in

claims 5 and 13. On the other hand, if the Official Notice is meant to be those sessions recited in

the claims, there would be no motivation then to modify *Heiney et al.*'s different virtual socket

session. Furthermore, the use of Official Notice is not for gap-filling but apparently the sole

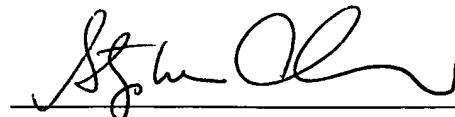evidentiary basis against the subject matter specific to claims 5 and 13 (see MPEP 2144.03E).

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections

of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If

any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the

undersigned attorney at 703-425-8516 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as

possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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